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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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Czechoslovak Scout Organisation

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1. Since the February coup, the problem of education of youth has caused a great deal of difficulty to the Communist Party. The Communists have been disturbed by the strongly anti-Communist stand of university and secondary school students as well as by the rather passive attitude of apprentice youth. Soon after the new "Uniform School Law" was enacted and following a radical purge among the teachers, the Communists launched their attempt to minimize the influence of parents upon their children not only by an intensified Communist indoctrination in schools, but also by the establishment of special clubs and youth centers, recreation schools, and holiday camps. Simultaneously with the liquidation of all non-Communist leaders in the SOKOL, the Communist Party proceeded to reorganize the whole youth organization in Czechoslovakia. This reorganization concerns primarily the largest Czech youth organization, JUNAK.
2. During the spring and summer months, the Communist press, using the "Problems of Leninism" (Otzazky Leninismu) as the guiding authority, elaborated upon and formulated the ideas underlying the reorganization. The youth organization, as envisaged by the Communists, is to be "nonpartisan but seeking the Party's support". For the youth as well as for the entire State the Communist Party is "the only leader and the only teacher". "Any (other) ideology is reactionary and no youth organization could support it".
3. Since the dissolution of youth organizations of the non-Communist political parties at the end of February, the activities of several religious associations (mostly Catholic) have been stopped (e.g. Radostne Mladi, Andel Strazce, Ohn, and other periodicals for the youth have been banned). Student self-government in normal and secondary schools as well as the autonomous university student organizations and apprentice youth clubs have been subordinated to the SCM (Svaz Ceske Mladaze - Czech Youth Association). Since the purge in the SOKOL, only the JUNAK (Youth) has retained (in spite of its new Communist leadership) its autonomy in organization and education based upon the idea of world brotherhood fostered by the founder of the movement, BADEN-POWELL, and represented by the International Scouts Organization in JOMNON.
4. The effort of the Communist Party to minimize the educational influence of parents and other "undesirable" influences induced the Action Committee of the JUNAK to prepare a draft of reorganization of the whole movement in Czechoslovakia with a view to setting up an organization which would be linked with the school system. Instructions and directives, worked out in July 1948 and distributed to the leaders of scout organizations in August, retained some of the old principles and did not

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give up the scout ideology (e.g., the principle of selection was retained, coeducation was recommended up to the age of 10 and for adults, etc.).

5. At the meeting of Communist members of Czechoslovak youth organizations held 27 August 1948, the above principles were strongly criticized. Mr. HEJZLAR, Chairman of the Czech Youth Association and Communist Representative in the Parliament, and Mr. HAJEK, Secretary General of that organization, voiced their disapproval at the meeting of the Central Committee of the SCM held 29 August 1948: "Our organization has been entrusted with the honorable task of helping the Communist Party in leading the youth to the realization of those ideals which will be put before the whole nation by the Communist Party and of being a fellow combatant of the Communist Party against all traitors and against those who undermine our progress toward socialism," said HEJZLAR. In reference to the JUNAK, he added: "The scout organization, on the principles of which the JUNAK has been founded, is not satisfactory in the light of the exigencies in the education of youth in the new people's democracy. The system of BADEN-POWELL's scouting is a suitable educational system for bourgeois children and its roots are deeply imbedded in the soil of the Anglo-Saxon imperialism. It is impossible to graft it on the body of a people's democracy; it is necessary to eliminate it from the JUNAK and to replace it by new ideas similar to those on which youth organizations in the USSR and other progressive countries are founded".
6. Concrete instructions were given to participants of the meeting on 27 August 1948. They were to be definitively formulated at the next meeting on 3 September 1948 and subsequently published in the MLADA FRONTA unless it was decided that they would be given to Communist confidants only.
7. On the whole, the following action is planned with respect to the JUNAK organization:
  - a. Ideologically:
    - 1) A letter will be sent to the International Scout Organization in LONDON, in which the JUNAK will renounce BADEN-POWELL's reactionary ideology and announce its withdrawal from the International Scout Organization.
    - 2) A letter will be sent to the World Federation of Democratic Youth with an appeal to accept and give support to those youth organizations which - although not founded on the principles of the Boy Scouts - use the Boy Scouts' successful methods to attract youth.
    - 3) A campaign on the radio and in the press is to be started (especially in the Scout papers JUNAK and CINOVNIK) with the purpose of creating an aversion to the Boy Scout ideology and its representatives all over the world. (Caricatures show BADEN-POWELL fishing for Czech souls with his imperialistic fishing-hook and depict Mr. A. B. SVOJSIK, the founder of Czech scouting, as a Fascist, KRAMAR's follower, and a collaborator of the old Austrian regime.)
    - 4) Special stress is to be laid upon the ridicule of the "bourgeois principles underlying the scout commandments" (e.g. truthfulness, purity, and daily good deeds).
  - b. In organization:
    - 1) Scout groups are to be formed at schools. A class forms a group, a school forms a corps, a school district forms a higher organizational unit, and so on. In all committees of the Czechoslovak (centralized) youth organization, there are representatives of the Ministry of Education (Messrs. BEDNAR and VOJTECH), education inspectors, etc. Mr. PREININGER and Mrs. MEDLICKOVA are the committee members for JUNAK.
    - 2) The principle of coeducation is to be adopted within all scout units.

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- 3) None of the former scout leaders or of those who have worked actively in the JUNAK can occupy a leading position in the new organization.
- 4) Those who had been members of the old JUNAK cannot join the new organization as they could "infect" the others with "germs of reaction".
- 5) The question of the new name and uniform has not been solved yet.
- 6) The purge among the leaders will be followed by a purge among the rank and file members.

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